

## **Business Friendly: Everyone Claims To Be. We Live It**



### **Proactive, Efficient Staff**

- City staff see themselves as facilitators, working with business owners to identify and overcome issues.
- Efficient permitting process - Pre-application meeting to identify and resolve issues prior to submittal. Site Design Review and Building Permits processed concurrently to minimize permitting timeline.
- Case studies of why businesses succeed in Independence

### **High Tech, High Quality Infrastructure**

- [MINET](#) - A community-wide fiber-to-the-premises telecommunication utility providing residential and business services. Supported by LS Networks, MINET is redundant, scalable and can be built up to 10 Gig connection bandwidth.
- Dark fiber throughout the community.
- Modern water and sewer systems with approximately 250,000 gallons per day excess capacity.
- Central location in the Willamette Valley close to Interstate 5.

### **Large, Experienced Workforce**

- Over 350,000 people live within 30 miles of Independence.
- Several major universities nearby including Oregon State, Western Oregon, and Willamette, as well as Chemeketa Community College and Linn-Benton Community College.

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- Customized workforce development programs and incentives available through State and university programs.
- Significant Hispanic population
- For demographic and workforce breakdowns, see [Independence's Vital Statistics](#)

## Affordable, Shovel-Ready Land

- Vacant industrial land from 2-43 acres in size.
- Two vacant industrial sites applying for State Certified Shovel Ready status.
- Industrial land starting at \$67,000 an acre.

## Business Support and Incentive Programs

- Enterprise Zone - Covers all of Independence's industrial area and offers a 3-5 year abatement of property taxes as well as reductions in permit and SDC fees. Incentive depends on job creation and potentially wages offered
- MINET Telecommunication Incentives - Reduced costs for dark fiber access, data storage, site connections and related telecommunication issues. Incentive depends on job creation and telecommunication usage.
- [Greater Independence Business Incubator](#) - small business consulting and development services.
- Independence Facade Improvement Grant Program - Matching grants for renovating historic downtown storefronts and facades.
- Independence Economic Development Revolving Loan Program - up to 30% financing and below-market rates for projects that create or preserve jobs.

## Supporting Documents

 [Information on Oregon's Favorable Tax Structure](#)

 [Small Business Toolkit](#)

 [Facade Improvement Grant Program](#)

 [Economic Development Loan Program Brochure](#)

## Web Links

[MINET Fiber Telecommunications](#)[Oregon State Business Incentives](#)

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